

Prince George's County Public Schools Recycling Program

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) recycle materials via recycling bins and dumpsters, warehouse pickup, scheduled recycling pickups, and return programs.

Acceptable items in PGCPS recycling bins and dumpsters:


Paper

- ✓ Office paper (place shredded paper in a paper bag and staple closed), colored paper
- ✓ Envelopes, files, folders, notebooks and notebook paper, catalogs, junk mail, magazines, posters
- ✓ Paper bags, newspapers (including inserts), wrapping paper (no plastic or glitter)

Cardboard

- ✓ Flattened cardboard boxes
- ✓ Empty milk/juice cartons and juice boxes (remove straw)

Plastic

- ✓ Empty plastic containers with #1, 2, 3, 5, or 7 inside the recycling symbol 
- ✓ Empty plastic bottles and caps, plastic drink cups (No #6 plastics)
- ✓ Empty plastic narrow-neck and wide-mouth containers, including caps and lids

Metal

- ✓ Empty metal cans, food and beverage containers and lids
- ✓ Aluminum foil, aluminum pie pans

Glass

- ✓ Empty food and beverage containers of any color, including lids

Unacceptable Items—DO NOT place these items in PGCPS recycling bins/dumpsters:

- Textbooks, furniture, electronics and accessories, scrap metal—[request warehouse recycling pickup](#).
- Computers, electronics and accessories recycling - contact the IT Technician for your facility.
- Light bulbs - [recycle PGCPS fluorescent bulbs via special pickup](#).
- Empty ink cartridges and toner tubes—return for recycling via [pre-paid labels](#).
- Batteries - [recycle 9-volt or less via mail-back program](#)
- ✗ **NO #6 Plastics** (not accepted at our recycling facility), NO Styrofoam or Polystyrene; [PGC is Foam Free](#)
- ✗ **NO Plastic bags, plastic film, or bubble wrap; Do NOT bag recyclables.**
- ✗ **NO Food** (Food scraps can be composted)
- ✗ **NO Dirty/Food-Soiled paper trays, plates, or pizza boxes, NO paper cups**
- ✗ **NO Tissues, napkins, or paper towels**
- ✗ **NO Plastic utensils, straws, condiment packets; [PGC has banned non-compostable straws](#)**
- ✗ **NO Snack packaging**—chip bags, granola/energy bar wrappers, candy wrappers, etc.
- ✗ **NO Drink or food pouches**
- ✗ **NO Hazardous materials, broken glass**
- ✗ **NO Branches or yard materials**



Let's Recycle!

- Recycling reduces waste sent to the landfill, saves energy, and conserves resources.
- **The MD Code, Educational Article §4-127 and [PGCPS Administrative Procedures 2810 and 2810.1](#) require ALL schools to implement schoolwide recycling in cafeterias, classrooms, offices and all other areas.**
- The Building Supervisor, Recycling Coordinator(s), and Principal work together to lead the recycling program and develop an annual Waste Reduction Plan, due by September 30th, as required by Administrative Procedure 2810.
- The Principal selects the school's Recycling Coordinator(s) from the education staff to work with students, the Building Supervisor, and other staff to recycle at school.
- Recycling provides many opportunities to teach Environmental Literacy and STEM concepts, create a 'green culture' at your school, for student leadership and research projects, to work toward Maryland Green School certification, and participate in the PGCPS Climate Change Action plan.
- Engage student leaders to help promote recycling and waste reduction, monitor bins, and educate the school community.

Know How to Recycle Correctly

- Review [acceptable items in PGCPS recycling bins](#), [What Goes in My PGCPS Recycling Bin? Activity](#), take the [Trash or Recycling? Quiz](#); find more resources at www.pgcps.org/recycling.
- **Place only acceptable materials in the recycling bin.** Unacceptable items contaminate the recyclables and can cause the entire truckload of materials to be sent to the landfill.
- **DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES.** Recyclable materials must be loose in the recycling dumpster, not bagged. Plastic bags are not accepted by our recycling facility.
- **Lock recycling dumpsters to prevent trash contamination; the recycling truck will empty a locked dumpster.** PGCPS recycling dumpsters have an auto-release locking mechanism. Padlocks have been issued to all schools and facilities for recycling dumpsters.
- **Place recycling bins next to trash cans throughout the building. No solo bins/cans.** Clearly label all collection containers and place PGCPS trash and recycling posters above bins.

Visit the PGCPS Recycling Website, www.pgcps.org/recycling, for:

- [Recycling Guidebook](#)
 - [Recycling Supplies](#)
 - [Recycling Procedures and Best Practices](#)
- [Acceptable Materials in PGCPS Recycling Bins](#)
- [Lessons and Activities](#), including the [What Goes in My PGCPS Recycling Bin? Activity](#)
- [Additional Waste Reduction Resources and Opportunities](#)

